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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

1. The Group and/or Art Unit location of your application in the PTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Group Art Unit 2604.

The preliminary amendments filed 6/7/95 and 12/7/95 have been entered and made of record.

2. Claims 6-10, 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

For claim 6, "a viewer interest" is recited twice in this claim on lines 13-14 and line 24. Does the applicant refer to a same limitation?

For claim 16 recites the limitation "said remote transmitter station" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claims 17-18 are rejected as being dependent upon the rejected base claim 16.

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --
>
> (e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

4. Claims 6-20, 23-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Boland et al. (US #4,484,218).

For claim 6, Boland discloses a method of generating and delivering an individualized mass medium program (Col. 1, line 66 to Col. 2, line 25) presentation at a receiver station (Fig. 1, distribution terminal 4), said receiver station having a receiver (Col. 5, lines 2-4) for receiving a mass medium program signal, a computer (Fig. 2, computer 23) for generating and communicating information (Col. 16, lines 3-11), and one or more output devices (Fig. 2, converters 18 and diplexers 19) operatively connected to

said receiver and said computer for delivering to a viewer a mass medium program (Col. 5, lines 52-57) and computer information (Col. 16, lines 3-11), with said computer comprising one or more data storage locations (Col. 5, lines 45-48), said method comprising the steps of:

storing a timing signal (Col. 7, lines 5-9) and viewer interest identification data (Col. 5, lines 45-49) specifying a plurality of different viewer interest (Col. 5, lines 45-46);

controlling said computer a first time based on a comparison of said viewer interest identification data to other data (Col. 5, lines 48-49), said first step of controlling comprising:

(a) inputting into said computer further data designating a viewer interest (Col. 5, line 48);

(b) selecting a plurality of signals, each selected signal including a control signal respecting a different viewer interest (Col. 5, line 48);

(c) storing each selected signal at a storage location (Col. 5, line 49);

controlling said computer a second time based on said comparison, said second step of controlling comprising:

(a) selecting one or more computer programming information instructions (Col. 5, lines 48-50);

(b) generating mass medium program information content in respect to a viewer interest (Col. 5, lines 50-51);

(c) preparing to communicate generated mass medium program information content upon instruction (Col. 5, lines 52-53);

controlling said computer a third time based on said comparison, said third step of controlling comprising:

(a) selecting some mass medium program information content (Col. 5, lines 54-55);

(b) selecting a location (Col. 5, lines 55-56);

(c) communicating said selected mass medium program information content to said selected location (Col. 5, lines 55-56); and

presenting to a subscriber at a controlled time a mass medium program with locally generated mass medium program information content (Col. 5, lines 52-57), with said mass medium program and said locally generated mass medium program information content being outputted to said subscriber as

parallel presentation at a plurality of output devices (Col. 5, lines 59-62).

For claim 7, Boland discloses a method of generating and delivering an individualized mass medium program (Col. 1, line 66 to Col. 2, line 25) presentation at a receiver station (Fig. 1, distribution terminal 4), said receiver station having a receiver (Col. 5, lines 2-4) for receiving a mass medium program signal, a computer (Fig. 2, computer 23) for generating and communicating information (Col. 16, lines 3-11), and one or more output devices (Fig. 2, converters 18 and diplexers 19) operatively connected to said receiver and said computer for delivering to a viewer a mass medium program (Col. 5, lines 52-57) and computer information (Col. 16, lines 3-11), with said computer comprising one or more data storage locations (Col. 5, lines 45-48), said method comprising the steps of:

storing a timing signal (Col. 7, lines 5-9) and a plurality of identification signals specifying different viewer interest (Col. 5, line 49);

controlling said computer a plurality of times, each time based on a comparison of identification signals to other data (Col. 5, line 49; Col. 2, line 41), said first step of controlling comprising:

(a) inputting further data designating a viewer interest (Col. 5, line 48; Col. 2, line 41);

(b) selecting a signal, each selected signal including a control signal respecting a mass medium program (Col. 5, line 50);

(c) storing each selected signal at a storage location (Col. 5, line 49), some of said selected stored signals designating different viewer interests;

controlling said computer one or more times based on a comparison of said identification signal to other data, said second step of controlling comprising:

(a) selecting one or more computer programming information instructions (Col. 5, lines 48-50);

(b) generating mass medium program information content in respect to a viewer interest (Col. 5, lines 50-51);

(c) preparing to communicate generated mass medium program information content upon instruction (Col. 5, lines 52-53);

controlling said computer one or more times based on a comparison of said identification signal to other data, said third step of controlling comprising:

(a) selecting some mass medium program information content (Col. 5, lines 54-55);

(b) selecting a location (Col. 5, lines 55-56);

(c) communicating said selected mass medium program information content to said selected location (Col. 5, lines 55-56); and

presenting to a subscriber at a controlled time a mass medium program with locally generated mass medium program information content (Col. 5, lines 52-57), with said mass medium program and said locally generated mass medium program information content being outputted to said subscriber as parallel presentation at a plurality of output devices (Col. 5, lines 59-62).

For claim 8, Boland discloses a method of generating and delivering an individualized mass medium program (Col. 1, line 66 to Col. 2, line 25) presentation at a receiver station (Fig. 1, distribution terminal 4), said receiver station having a receiver (Col. 5, lines 2-4) for receiving a mass medium program signal, a computer (Fig. 2, computer 23) for generating and communicating information (Col. 16, lines 3-11), and one or more output devices (Fig. 2, converters 18 and diplexers 19) operatively connected to said receiver and said computer for delivering to a viewer a mass medium program (Col. 5, lines 52-57) and computer information (Col. 16, lines 3-11), with said computer comprising one or more data storage locations (Col. 5, lines 45-48), said method comprising the steps of:

storing a timing signal (Col. 7, lines 5-9) and identification data (Col. 5, lines 45-49), each identification datum specifying a different viewer interest (Col. 5, lines 45-46);

controlling said computer a first time based on a comparison of said identification data to other data (Col. 5, lines 48-49), said first step of controlling comprising:

(a) inputting to said computer data designating a viewer interest (Col. 5, line 48);

(b) selecting a first signal, each selected first signal including a control signal respecting a mass medium program presentation (Col. 5, line 49);

(c) storing each selected first signal at a storage location (Col. 5, line 49);

controlling said computer a second time based on said comparison, said second step of controlling comprising:

(a) inputting data designating a viewer interest (Col. 5, line 49)

(b) selecting a second signal, each selected second signal including a control signal respecting a mass medium program presentation (Col. 5, line 50);

(c) communicating each selected second signal to a processor and a storage location (Col. 5, lines 54-55);

controlling said computer a third time based on said comparison, said third step of controlling comprising:

(a) inputting data designating a viewer interest (Col. 5, line 49);

(b) selecting a third signal, each selected third signal including mass medium program information content and control signal (Col. 5, line 55);

(c) communicating each selected third signal to a processor and an output device (Col. 5, line 54); and

presenting to a subscriber a mass medium program with local mass medium program information content (Col. 5, lines 52-57), with said mass medium program and said local mass medium program information content being outputted to said subscriber as parallel presentation at a plurality of output devices (Col. 5, lines 59-62).

For claim 9, Boland discloses a method of generating and delivering an individualized mass medium program (Col. 1, line 66 to Col. 2, line 25) presentation at a receiver station (Fig. 1, distribution terminal 4), said receiver station having a receiver (Col. 5, lines 2-4) for receiving a mass medium program signal, a computer (Fig. 2, computer 23) for generating and communicating information (Col. 16, lines 3-11), and one or more output devices (Fig. 2, converters 18 and diplexers 19) operatively connected to

said receiver and said computer for delivering to a viewer a mass medium program (Col. 5, lines 52-57) and computer information (Col. 16, lines 3-11), with said computer comprising one or more data storage locations (Col. 5, lines 45-48), said method comprising the steps of:

storing a timing signal (Col. 7, lines 5-9) and signal identification data designating a specific signal type (Col. 5, lines 45-49);

controlling said computer a first time based on a comparison of said signal identification data to other data (Col. 5, lines 48-49), said first step of controlling comprising:

(a) selecting a first signal, each selected first signal including a control signal respecting a mass medium program presentation (Col. 5, line 49);

(b) storing each selected first signal at a storage location (Col. 5, line 49);

controlling said computer a second time based on said comparison, said second step of controlling comprising:

(a) selecting a second signal, each selected second signal including a control signal respecting a mass medium program presentation (Col. 5, line 50);

(b) communicating each selected second signal to a processor (Col. 5, lines 54-55);

controlling said computer a third time based on said comparison, said third step of controlling comprising:

(a) identifying a third signal, each identified third signal being a control signal designating a signal type (Col. 2, line 41);

(b) communicating each identified third signal to a processor or an output device (Col. 5, line 54);

controlling said computer a fourth time based on said comparison, said fourth step of controlling comprising:

(a) selecting a first signal (Col. 5, line 49); and

(b) communicating some mass medium program information content in response to a control signal (Col. 5, lines 52-57); and

presenting to a subscriber a mass medium program with local mass medium program information content (Col. 5, lines 52-57),

with said mass medium program and said local mass medium program information content being outputted to said subscriber as parallel presentation at a plurality of output devices (Col. 5, lines 59-62).

For claim 10, Boland discloses a method of generating and delivering an individualized mass medium program (Col. 1, line 66 to Col. 2, line 25) presentation at a receiver station (Fig. 1, distribution terminal 4), said receiver station having a receiver (Col. 5, lines 2-4) for receiving a mass medium program signal, a computer (Fig. 2, computer 23) for generating and communicating information (Col. 16, lines 3-11), and one or more output devices (Fig. 2, converters 18 and diplexers 19) operatively connected to said receiver and said computer for delivering to a viewer a mass medium program (Col. 5, lines 52-57) and computer information (Col. 16, lines 3-11), with said computer comprising one or more data storage locations (Col. 5, lines 45-48), said method comprising the steps of:

storing a timing signal (Col. 7, lines 5-9) and a plurality of a first data, each first datum designating a different type of signal (Col. 2, lines 38-42);

controlling said computer one or more times based on a comparison (Col. 5, lines 48-49), said first step of controlling comprising:

(a) selecting a first signal, each selected first signal including a control signal respecting a mass medium program presentation (Col. 5, line 49);

(b) storing each selected first signal at a storage location (Col. 5, line 49);

controlling said computer one or more times based on a comparison, said second step of controlling comprising:

(a) selecting a second signal, each selected second signal including a control signal respecting a mass medium program presentation (Col. 5, line 50);

(b) communicating each selected second signal to a processor or an output device (Col. 5, lines 54-55);

controlling said computer one or more times based on a comparison, said third step of controlling comprising:

(a) identifying a third signal, each identified third signal being a control signal designating a signal type (Col. 2, line 41);

(b) communicating each identified third signal to a processor or an output device (Col. 5, line 54);

controlling said computer one or more times based on a comparison, said fourth step of controlling comprising:

(a) selecting a first signal (Col. 5, line 49); and

(b) communicating some mass medium program information content in response to a control signal (Col. 5, lines 52-57); and

presenting to a subscriber a mass medium program with local mass medium program information content (Col. 5, lines 52-57), with said mass medium program and said local mass medium program information content being outputted to said subscriber as parallel presentation at a plurality of output devices (Col. 5, lines 59-62).

For claim 11, Boland discloses a method of providing data of interest to a receiver station (Fig. 1, distribution terminal 4)

from a remote data source (Fig. 1, subscriber terminal 6), said data of interest for use at the receiver station in generating or outputting a receiver specific datum (Col. 5, lines 49-57), said method comprising the steps of :

storing data at said remote data source (Col. 5, line 44);

receiving at said remote data source a query from said receiver station (Col. 5, lines 44-45);

transmitting said data from said remote data source to said receiver station in response to said step of receiving said query, said receiver station selecting and storing some of said transmitted data (Col. 5, lines 47-49);

transmitting from a second remote source (Fig. 1, head end 1) to said receiver station a signal (Col. 2, lines 16-25, 38-42) which controls said receiver station to select and process an instruct signal (Col. 5, lines 52-54) which is effective at said receiver station to coordinate presentation of said data with a second predetermined presentation sequence (Fig. 2, LUT data of the computer 23).

For claim 12, Boland discloses a method of communicating subscriber station information from a subscriber station to one or more remote data collection stations, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting a viewer's or participant's reaction at a subscriber station (Col. 5, lines 41-43);

receiving at said subscriber station information that designates an instruct signal to process or an output to deliver in consequence of subscriber input (Col. 10, lines 30-40);

determining the presence of said subscriber input at said subscriber station by processing said viewer's or participant's reaction (Col. 10, lines 48-52);

processing an instruct signal which is effective to coordinate presentation of data with a second predetermined presentation sequence at said subscriber station in consequence of said step of determining (Col. 5, lines 49-52);

transferring from said subscriber station to one or more remote data collection stations (Fig. 1, head end 1) an indicia confirming delivery of said instruct signal from said step of

processing or confirming delivery of said effect from said step of processing (Col. 2, lines 42-45).

For claim 13, Boland discloses that the instruct signal is input by a subscriber (Col. 5, lines 41-44), said method further comprising the steps of:

storing a subscriber instruction to receive one or more specific mass medium programs, data, news items, or computer control instructions (Col. 5, lines 41-44); and

receiving one or more specific mass medium programs, data, news items, or computer control instructions in accordance with said instruction (Col. 5, lines 49-57).

For claim 14, Boland discloses that the instruct signal is input by a subscriber (Col. 5, lines 41-44), said method further comprising the steps of:

storing a subscriber instruction to receive one or more specific mass medium programs, data, news items, or computer control instructions in a specific fashion (Col. 5, lines 41-44); and

receiving one or more specific mass medium programs, data, news items, or computer control instructions in accordance with said instruction (Col. 5, lines 49-57)

For claim 15, Boland discloses that the information that designates a specific subscriber input or said instruct signal is detected in an information transmission from a data of programming source (Col. 5, lines 41-44), said method further comprising the steps of:

programming a processor to respond to information communicated from a data or programming source (Col. 5, lines 41-44);

receiving an information transmission from a data or programming source (Col. 5, lines 41-43);

inputting at least some of said information transmission to a control signal detector (Col. 5, line 44);

detecting data or an instruct signal in said information transmission (Col. 5, line 44); and

passing said detected data or instruct signal to said processor (Col. 5, line 44).

For claim 16, Boland discloses a method for controlling a remote intermediate data transmitter station (Fig. 1, distribution terminal 4) to communicate data to one or more receiver stations (Fig. 1, subscriber stations 6), with said remote transmitter station including a broadcast or cablecast transmitter for transmitting data (Fig. 2, converters 18), a plurality of selective transmission devices each operatively connected to said broadcast or cablecast transmitter for communicating data (Fig. 2, diplexers 19), a data receiver (Fig. 2, filters 16, 25), a control signal detector (Fig. 2, VRAM 28), and a computer capable of controlling one or more of said selective transmission devices (Fig. 2, computer 23), and with said remote transmitter station adapted to detect one or more control signals, to control the communication of data in response to one or more detected control signal, and to deliver data at its broadcast or cablecast transmitter (Col.), said method of communicating comprising the steps of:

receiving data to be transmitted by the remote intermediate data transmitter station and delivering said data to a transmitter, said data comprising an instruct signal which is

effective at the receiver station to coordinate presentation of said data with a second predetermined presentation sequence (Col. 7, lines 10-30);

receiving one or more control signals which at the remote intermediate data transmitter station operate to control the communication of said data (Col. 7, lines 10-30); and

transmitting said one or more control signals to said transmitter before a specific time (Col. 7, lines 5-7).

For claim 17, Boland discloses that the specific time is a scheduled time of transmitting said data at said remote intermediate data transmitter station (Col. 7, lines 5-7).

For claim 18, Boland discloses the step of embedding a specific one of said one or more control signals in said data before transmitting said data to said remote transmitter station (Col. 7, lines 63-66).

For claim 19, Boland discloses a method of controlling a receiver station including the steps of:

detecting the presence or absence of a broadcast or cablecast control signal (Col. 7, line 59 to Col. 8 line 12);

inputting an instruct-to-react signal to a processor based on said step of detecting the presence or absence of a control signal (Col. 7, lines 64-65; Col. 8, lines 1-2);

controlling said processor to output specific information in response to said step of inputting an instruct-to-react-signal (Col. 5, lines 45-57);

coordinating presentation of data with a second predetermined presentation sequence on the basis of information received from said processor based on said step of controlling a processor (Col. 5, lines 45-57).

For claim 20, Boland discloses that a buffer is operatively connected to said processor for buffering input, and the method further comprising the step of inputting said instruct-to-react signal directly to said processor (Col. 8, lines 6-8).

For claim 23, Boland discloses a method of controlling a receiver station (Fig. 1, distribution terminal 4), said receiver

station having a processor (Fig. 2, computer 23) for passing and executing instruction and a clock operatively connected to said processor (Fig. 2, Sync 27) for inputting a timing signal, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a broadcast or cablecast transmission (Col. 5, lines 45-46);

demodulating said broadcast or cablecast transmission to detect an information transmissions thereon, said information transmission comprising an instruct signal which is effective to coordinate presentation of said data with a second predetermined presentation sequence (Col. 5, lines 46-57);

detecting said instruct signal on said information transmission and passing said instruct signal to said processor (Col. 7, lines 61-68);

delaying, under processor control, the passing of said instruct signal to a controllable apparatus (Col. 7, lines 61-68);

passing said instruct signal to said controllable apparatus on the basis of a timing signal (Col. 7, lines 5-7; Col. 8, 4-12);

controlling said controllable apparatus based on said instruct signal (Col. 8, lines 13-16).

For claim 24, Boland further discloses the steps of:

detecting a timing signal in said information transmission(Col. 3, lines 52-55);

passing said timing signal to said clock (Col. 3, lines 55-60);

timing, under control of said clock, the passing of said instruct signal based on said timing signal (Col. 3, lines 55-60).

For claim 25, Boland discloses a method of communicating data and update material to one or more mass medium programming receiver stations (Fig. 1, distribution terminal 4) each of which includes a broadcast or cablecast data receiver (Fig. 2, converters 18), a data storage device (Fig. 2, VRAM 28), a control signal detector (Fig. 2, VRAM 28), and a computer capable of processing data (Fig. 2, computer 23), and with each said receiver station adapted to detect and respond to one or more

instruct signals and to store data for subsequent processing, said method of communicating comprising the steps of:

receiving data to be transmitted and delivering the data to a transmitter (Col. 6, lines 11-22);

receiving one or more instruct signals which at the receiver station are effective to coordinate presentation of said data with a second predetermined presentation sequence (Col. 5, lines 41-57);

transferring said one or more instruct signals to a transmitter (Col. 5, line 66 to Col. 6, line 10);

transmitting an information transmission comprising said data and said one or more instruct signal (Col. 6 line 9-10).

For claim 26, Boland discloses the step of embedding one or more instruct signals in a television signal (Col. 7, lines 63-66).

For claim 27, Boland discloses the step of transmitting directs said broadcast or cablecast transmission to a plurality of receiver stations at the same time and each of said plurality of receiver stations receives or responds to said one or more

instruct signals concurrently (Col. 13, line 49 to Col. 14, line 35).

For claim 28, Boland discloses the step of transmitting directs said broadcast or cablecast transmission to a plurality of receiver stations at different times and each of said plurality of receiver stations receives or responds to said one or more instruct signals at a different time (Col. 7, lines 5-7).

For claim 29, Boland discloses the steps of receiving said data unit at a receiver in the transmitter station, communicating said data unit from said receiver to a memory location, and storing said data unit at said memory location for a period of time prior to communicating said data unit to a transmitter (Col. 5, line 41 to Col. 6, line 10).

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to N. Vu whose telephone number is (703) 305-4946. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Andrew Faile, can be

reached on (703) 305-4380. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-5399.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

NYV
11/22/96